Who Killed Bobby? The unsolved murder of Robert F. Kennedy

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Shane O'Sullivan (born 1969) is an Irish writer and filmmaker based in London. He is best known for his work on the assassination of Robert Kennedy. His feature documentary *RFK Must Die* is the first theatrical documentary on the case since Ted Charach's *The Second Gun*, which was released in October 1973. His book on the case, *Who Killed Bobby? The Unsolved Murder of Robert F. Kennedy* was published by Union Square Press to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the assassination on 5 June 2008.

His second feature documentary, Children of the Revolution, tells the stories of Ulrike Meinhof and Fusako Shigenobu, leaders of the German Red Army Faction and the Japanese Red Army, and premiered at IDFA in 2010. It was released in thirty cinemas across Japan in 2014. His third feature, Killing Oswald, was released in 2013, on the fiftieth anniversary of the JFK assassination.[*citation needed*]

His most recent book, Dirty Tricks: Nixon, Watergate and the CIA, was published in 2018 by Skyhorse Publishing.[*citation needed*]

THe JFK and RFK assasinations are tied to Los Angeles where Patricia Kennedy and Peter Lawford lives and the Donegans were part of that was was WWII history and the p-51 of Inglewood John Wayne made famous (Fighter Control Radioi and the defense of Great Britain.

Polka Dot File Anna Chennault, also known as Anna Chan and Anna Chen, was born (Chen Xiangmei) in Beijing, China, on June 23, 1925. She married Gen. Claire Chennault, the legendary founder of the famed Flying Tigers during the Sino-Japanese war, on Dec. 21, 1947. The Flying Tigers were a group of American mercenary pilots flying for the Chinese during that war.

Their storybook love story and years of marriage is well documented and the subject of several TV productions in Taiwan.

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A woman of many talents and unending energy, she was, at various times, the publicist for CAT airlines, vice president for Flying Tigers Airline, correspondent for Central News Agency, and a broadcaster for the Voice of America, another CIA front.

Her status and influence was such that she accompanied Richard Nixon on one of his trips to the Far East. She also played a crucial role on behalf of the Nixon campaign during the war in Vietnam.

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Chapter SIXTEEN Who Killed Bobby?

The CIA at the Hotel Four years ago, the story you’ve just read inspired me to write a screenplay on the case. It would be a challenge to distill the complexities and conundrums into a two-hour film, but the biggest problem was that I still didn’t know “who did it.” I didn’t believe the official version of events. I didn’t

believe Sirhan acted alone, so I went in search of an ending and became, to use a very seventies term, an "assassinologist."

I read all the books on the case and was particularly affected by Robert Blair Kaiser's sublime portrayal of the struggles to unlock Sirhan's mind. The more I listened to Sirhan speak, in custody, with Kaiser, or under hypnosis, the more credible I found his memory block and the possibility that he was a "Manchurian candidate." In subsequent books on the case, author Phillip Melanson presented the most convincing scenario to me: Sirhan as a hypnotically controlled "patsy" with a programmed memory block; two guns-the second wielded by Cesar or someone else; Pena and Hernandez covering up within the LAPD; and unnamed doctors and CIA operatives filling out the conspiracy.

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It's tempting to write off the LAPD's bullying, incompetence, omission, and destruction and manipulation of evidence as simply the cover-up of a botched investigation-the avoidance of another Dallas, by any means necessary-until you see the connections fanning out from the department to other government agencies, specifically the CIA.

The two men who had effective day-to-day control of the RFK investigation also had CIA connections. As day watch supervisor, Lieutenant Manuel Pena had to sign off and approve every report and decide who to reinterview and who to dismiss as the case was prepared for trial. This was the same Manny Pena who scrawled across several blank interview summaries relating to Sandra Serrano, "Polka-dot story of Serrano phony," "Polka dot story Serrano N.G."

Sergeant Enrique "Hank" Hernandez was Pena's chief interrogator, called on to administer polygraph tests to troublesome witnesses to determine if they were telling the truth. Without fail, whenever claims of conspiracy were sent to Hernandez, he bullied witnesses into retractions. Luckily, many of these tapes survive, so we can still hear the mockery Hernandez's bullying tactics make of this supposedly objective discipline. Hernandez also led the investigation probing possible conspiracy and oversaw the background checks on Sirhan and his family.

Manuel Pena joined the LAPD in 1941 and served in the Pacific with the Naval Air Corps during World War II. He spent two years in Verdun, France, as a criminal investigator for the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and spoke fluent French and Spanish. He went on to spend sixteen years of his police career working in Robbery-Homicide, reaching the rank of lieutenant. Robert Kaiser recalls his nickname at LAPD was "Shoot 'em up Manny Pena"-"he killed several people in the line of duty, which wasn't very normal."

In November 1967, Pena retired from the department with a surprise testimonial dinner at the Sportsman's Club attended by Chief Reddin and top department brass. He was to accept a position with the Agency for International Development (AID), a State Department aid agency that among other roles served as a regular cover identity for CIA operatives abroad. He would serve as a "public safety adviser" and train the police forces of friendly dictatorships in sophisticated interrogation techniques to use on leftist insurgents and political dissidents.

FBI agent Roger LaJeunesse had known Pena for years and was the FBI liaison to the LAPD during the RFK case. LaJeunesse said Pena left the LAPD for a "special training unit" at CIA's Camp Peary base in Virginia. After nine weeks' training, he would be posted to Latin America, where he could use his Spanish. Pena had been doing special assignments for the CIA for a decade, mostly under AID cover. On some of these, he worked with CIA operative Dan Mitrione, a "US police adviser" who taught interrogation and torture techniques to the ruling junta in Uruguay and was killed by the Tupamaro guerrillas in 1970 as a result.

Pena's new career didn't last long. Robert Kennedy announced that he would run for president on March 16, 1968 and Pena was back in Los Angeles by April. Investigative reporter Fernando Faura was walking along a

corridor in Parker Center one day when he noticed a familiar figure behind heavy horn-rim glasses and a black handlebar mustache.

"Hey, Manny, I damn near didn't recognize you with that disguise!" Pena stopped and explained the [US] AID job wasn't what he expected, so he quit and came back to Los Angeles.

When the LAPD subsequently unveiled Special Unit Senator (SUS), a special task force to investigate the assassination, the man put in charge of preparing the case for trial and supervising the day watch investigators was Manny Pena.

Pena's brother, a school principal, was interviewed for a local television show by host Stan Bohrman. During the commercial break, he mentioned how proud he was of his brother's service with the CIA. "Nobody's supposed to know about that. It's supposed to be secret."

In 1977, researcher Betsy Langman interviewed Pena-then retired from the LAPD, presumably for good-and asked about his intelligence ties. "I worked with the AID program out of the Offce of Public Safety," said Pena. (The AID program had been unmasked in the mid- 1970s as one of the CIA's main covers for clandestine activity abroad.)

"Is AID not CIA?" asked Langman. "Ah, not to my knowledge," said Pena. "Was your work away from LAPD in 1967 going to be for AID?" "Yeah." "What type of work was it?" "Ah, that I can't ah ... I don't think that's anybody's business."

Like Pena, Enrique Hernandez had served with the army in Korea and spoke fluent Spanish. He was thirty-seven years old and had been with the LAPD for fifteen years at the time of Bobby Kennedy's assassination. He was the sole polygraph examiner for SUS, and he talked up his credentials to Sandra Serrano before her test began: "I have been called to South America, to Vietnam and Europe and I have administered tests. The last test that I administered was to the dictator in Caracas, Venezuela. He was a big man, a dictator. Pérez Jiménez was the last name. And this is when there was a transition in the government of Venezuela and President Betancourt came in ... there was a great thing involved over there and I tested the gentleman." So what had an LAPD polygraph offcer been doing in South America?

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